

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-54, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

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-- 55. A terminal for executing a program, comprising: a reader for electro-optically reading machine-readable indicia constituting machine-executable instructions of the program; and a processor for decoding the instructions and for self-executing the program.

56. The terminal as claimed in claim 55; and further comprising a network interface on the terminal, for interfacing with a computer network.

57. The terminal as claimed in claim 55, wherein the machine-readable indicia comprises a bar code symbol.

58. The terminal as claimed in claim 55, wherein the machine-executable instructions are expressed in an agent implementation language.

59. The terminal as claimed in claim 55; and further comprising a terminal housing in which the processor and the reader are provided, and wherein the terminal housing has an interface for interfacing with a computer network.

60. The terminal as claimed in claim 55, wherein the reader includes a scanner for sweeping a light beam across the indicia.

61. The terminal as claimed in claim 55, wherein the reader includes a scanner for scanning a field of view across the indicia.

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62. The terminal as claimed in claim 55, wherein the terminal includes a

wireless transmitter for transmitting data from the terminal to a computer network.

63. The terminal as claimed in claim 55, wherein the terminal includes a

display for displaying a network site created by the executed program.

64. The terminal as claimed in claim 55, wherein the indicia is stored on a

storage medium, and wherein the reader is a portable device movable relative to the storage medium.

65. A system for executing a program, comprising: a terminal including a

computer network interface, a reader for electro-optically reading machine-readable indicia constituting machine-executable instructions of the program, and a processor for decoding the instructions and for self-executing the program to obtain data; and a storage medium on which the indicia is printed and read by the reader; and wherein the interface transmits the data via the interface to the computer network.

66. The system as claimed in claim 65, wherein the indicia includes a

plurality of bar coded symbols, and wherein the storage medium includes a plurality of sheets on which the symbols are printed.

67. An optical reading and processing device for optically acquiring a

computer-executable program encoded in the form of a two-dimensional bar code symbol on a storage medium, comprising:

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a bar code reader for electro-optically reading the two-dimensional bar code symbol;

a transmitter for sending data over a communication link; and
a processor for decoding the read two-dimensional bar code symbol to obtain the computer-executable program encoded therein, and for either executing the program or causing the program to be transmitted via the communication link to a remote computer for execution.

68. The device as claimed in claim 67, wherein the device is connectable to a computer network via the communication link.

69. The device as claimed in claim 67, wherein the computer-executable program is expressed in an agent implementation language.

70. The device as claimed in claim 67, wherein the processor executes the program to create a network site within the device.

71. The device as claimed in claim 67, wherein the communication link is a wireless link.

72. A method of optically acquiring and using a computer-executable program encoded in the form of a two-dimensional bar code symbol on a printed page via an optical reading and processing device, comprising the steps of:

reading the two-dimensional bar code symbol;